SUBJECT No. 261.

Patels and Shanbhogs to be authorised to collect toddy khists.

Mr. Hatcheeregowda, Gubbi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The system of toddy vend farmers paying the toddy khists direct to Treasury, is likely to allow the khists to fall into arrears. If village patels and shanbhogs are authorised to collect such khists, prompt payment of such khists will be secured.

Reply of Government.—No change is called for.

SUBJECT No. 262.

Cancellation of the rates fixed for the sale of arrack.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Rama Rao of Malur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The system of selling arrack, toddy and ganja shops by public auction, appears to take the form of gambling. The sale amount and duty paid to Government comes to more than what the vendor gets in the bargain. He therefore naturally resorts to the mode of practising deceit on the consumers to make good the loss accruing to him. The rate fixed by Government for the sale of liquors should therefore be cancelled.

Reply of Government.—It is not clear what the member wants. No change of the system is called for.

SUBJECT No. 263.

Graduated dram glass tumblers for arrack shops.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Rama Rao of Malur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Arrangements may be made to supply the arrack shops with graduated dram glass tumblers.

Withdrawn.

SUBJECT No. 264.

Holding the sale of toddy and arrack shops once in three years.

Mr. D. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The annual sale of toddy and arrack shops has been a source of great loss to the contractor. The same may advantageously be held once in three years.

Reply of Government.—Last year's reply holds good. Further experience of the present system for two or three years is necessary before any change can be considered.

SUBJECT No. 265.

Free grant of bagani trees for drawing toddy.

Messrs. G. Channabasappa Gowda, Nagar Taluk, and Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur Taluk.

The members were absent but Mr. Vasudeva Rao spoke.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Bagani trees may be freely granted to the occupants of lands on which they grow and to their raiyats, if any, provided they make *bona fide* use of them for drawing toddy.

(*b*) It is requested that Malnad gowdas and coffee planters may be permitted to use bagani toddy free of any charge.

Reply of Government.—The Government have already decided that the extension of the existing privilege was neither called for nor desirable (*vide* Government Order No. Fl. 1331-5—S. R. 9-05-3, dated 25th August 1905).

SUBJECT No. 266.

Tree-tax on toddy trees in occupied lands.

Mr. Sivananjappa, Tiptur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Requests that the occupants of lands may be given the tree-tax on toddy trees growing on their lands just like the Inamdars, and that they may also

be permitted to cut trees on their lands without Government interfereince.

Reply of Government.—This is not possible.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT No. 267.

Artesian Wells.

Mr. Chikkegowda, Maddagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—In Pondicherry and Kumbakonum, the machinery for Artesian wells is available and such wells are profitably availed of there. It is prayed that Government may be pleased to take the initiative in sinking such wells in one or two places.

Reply of Government.—Not feasible.

SUBJECT No. 268.

The Bhadra project.

Messrs. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, Shimoga Municipality; C. Subba Rao, B.A., B L., Advocate, Nagar Sabha; Nadig Seenappa and Patel Basappa, Shimoga Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Bhadra project may be taken up. The Districts of Shimoga and Chikmagalur have no great water-works. It is said that there is not much need for this as these are Malnad districts. But the area that will be irrigated by the proposed channels of the Bhadra project is the Maidan portion or the semi-malnad portion of these districts. When rainfall is generally scanty, the need for irrigation works is as pressing in these districts as they are in the Maidan districts.

Reply of Government.—The suggestion is a good one and will be considered favourably.

SUBJECT No. 269.

Levy of acreage contribution in place of compulsory labor by raiyats to tanks.

Messrs. Krishna Iyengar, Turuvekere Sub-Taluk, and Singrachar, Kunigal Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The raiyats are responsible for the annual earth-work to major and minor tanks and to channels. But the simultaneous attendance of all the raiyats at the required time cannot be expected. It is prayed therefore that instead of raiyats being compelled to do such works all at once, Government may undertake the execution of periodical repairs and the cost thereof proportionately assessed and recovered from raiyats along with revenue khist collections.

Reply of Government.—This is no doubt a good idea and is already under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 270.

Raiyats to be relieved of the liability to remove silt from tanks and channels and to do the necessary earth-work.

Mr. T. Narasimha Iyengar, Member, Kadur District Board.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that raiyats may not be asked to do the work of removing silt from tanks and channels.

Reply of Government.—*Vide* reply to Subject No. 269. The raiyats are never required to remove silt from tanks; they are only required to clear silt from feeder and distribution channels and do the necessary earth-work for the maintenance of tank and channel bunds.

SUBJECT No. 271.

Cessation of the demand for contribution by the raiyats.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Rama Rao of Malur.

Summary of discussion.—The raiyats having been put to a great loss by the breach of the tanks on account of the heavy floods, it was represented last year that the demand for contribution should not be made and this was accordingly promised. It is prayed that the demands which are now being made may be stopped.